

But humor aside, Tim's passion for public service and military matters, especially defense appropriations, has been his strongest attribute. While working full time in my office, Tim attended evening classes at the Naval War College and obtained a master's degree. When Granite State service-members were recuperating at Walter Reed, Tim would often drive out there, visit them, and make sure that they received the best care possible. Time and again, he went above and beyond the call of duty.

Although Tim's new job will not be taking him too far from the Hill, he will be missed. Whether it be his good cheer, his expertise, or his dedication to service, Tim will be hard to replace. Fortunately, it is good to know that the Federal Government will still benefit from his talents as he works for our men and women in the Armed Forces at the Pentagon. I am sure Tim will make us all proud there and I wish Tim best of luck on this new chapter in his life.

#### TRIBUTE TO LYNN BAKER

MR. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I wish today to express my deep gratitude and heartfelt best wishes to my administrative director, Lynn Baker, who will be retiring at the end of the month after 27 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Senate.

Lynn is a perfect example of the countless people who serve the Senate as dedicated, nonpartisan employees. Whether it has been as a member of committee staff or in personal offices, the Senate could not function without professional staff such as Lynn Baker.

Over the past 27 years, Lynn has worked with many staff and interns, all of whom have benefitted from her experience, wisdom, and guidance. When asked about Lynn, many current and former staffers will tell you that she is always willing to listen and offer advice. She takes great pride in encouraging junior staffers to develop their abilities and pursue their goals. One former staffer remembers that Lynn made her feel like part of the family when she opened her home to this staffer until appropriate housing could be found. It is no wonder that Lynn stays in touch with so many of those with whom she has worked throughout her tenure in the Senate.

Lynn graduated with a degree in history from Lake Forest College in Illinois, including a semester abroad in Florence. She subsequently worked in a Washington law firm for 2 years before joining Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois' staff on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. During a 7-year period on Senator Percy's staff, Lynn also served as office manager for his personal office before she became chief clerk of the Subcommittee on Energy, Nuclear Proliferation and Government Process.

Following a 4-year absence from the Senate, Lynn returned in 1987 as execu-

tive assistant and scheduling director for Senator KENT CONRAD of North Dakota. When she became office manager for Senator Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon, Lynn worked closely with senior Disbursing Office staff to develop the first electronic financial management system and time and attendance system for personal Senate offices. Following Senator Hatfield's retirement, Lynn worked as office manager for MAX BAUCUS of Montana before returning to the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs as chief clerk in 1998. Lynn was financial clerk of the committee when I assumed the chairmanship in 2001, and then moved to my personal office as administrative director in 2003.

As administrative director, Lynn has made a number of contributions that have helped my office better serve Connecticut. Always open to new ideas, Lynn implemented the acquisition and use of new technologies that enabled my staff to perform their duties more efficiently. She also took the initiative to update and rewrite my office policy manual, and played a leading role in integrating my office with a new software system that will revolutionize the way my staff communicates and works together. Lynn was instrumental in the redesign of my Senate office in 2005, which resulted in an attractive, comfortable, and functional work space.

Lynn has formed many lasting friendships throughout the Senate community, where she is beloved and respected for her character, judgment, and professionalism. I know I speak for my staff and many in the Senate family when I say how difficult it will be for us to bid a fond farewell to Lynn. Her patience, warmth, and wise counsel will be greatly missed. However, we all wish Lynn good health and happiness always as she begins her well-deserved retirement. I know that she has much to look forward to with her loving husband, Steve Nousen, and their son, Daniel Baker.

I extend to Lynn Baker my personal thanks and congratulations for 27 years of exemplary public service to the U.S. Senate.

#### IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

MR. CRAPO. Madam President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heart-breaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate

and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

We are glad to hear that at least one of our politicians is concerned about how the gasoline prices are affecting the middle class. Most of us feel that our government is extremely out of touch with the majority of the country.

We are retired on a fixed income and we worked hard all our lives and saved to get a motor home for vacations, but unfortunately we now cannot use it because of the price of gasoline and it just sits there. We try to go out shopping for groceries and any other necessities just once a week, making a list of items and stores, color coding so we do not forget anything. The cost of energy also has increased the price of groceries tremendously, so basic foods and produce are the norm—doing away with any treats. We have never seen the price of gasoline increase day by day and a nickel to a dime at a time.

We desperately need to have alternate sources of energy, such as coal, windmills, solar and nuclear. We should have been building new refineries and recovering oil off all of our coasts since the 1970s when this same problem came up at that time, but, to our shame, we did not.

Automobiles should get a lot more than the 35 mpg that we have heard mentioned for future vehicles. It should be at the very least 60 mpg, and there is no reason in this world with our technology that this could not be a reality. Something should be done to increase the mileage on all of the vehicles that are already on the road. This is never mentioned. We cannot just go out and buy a hybrid or other fuel efficient vehicle at the drop of a hat to help the situation. We drive our 2002 Honda 4 cylinder between 55 and 60 mph on the highway to increase our fuel efficiency and you should see the bad looks we get. Highway mileage should be lowered to 55 mph like in the 70s to help conserve.

We do hope that our government does something quickly to improve this situation and that it is not handled like it was in the 70s—all talk and no action. We need to be dependent on no one but ourselves for our energy needs. No one is going to take care of the USA and its citizens but the USA itself. We need some action now—please.

ROBERT & ROBERTA,  
Idaho Falls.

Thanks for the opportunity to respond to your e-letter regarding energy costs and gasoline prices. I agree that we in the US are far too dependent on petroleum for energy. But I think it is a selfish and short-sighted view to defeat the climate change legislation. Our focus should be, as you mentioned, on using less petroleum, not searching for petroleum everywhere we can, no matter the ecological cost. It is true; we do not have good mass transit in Idaho and especially in the more densely populated Treasure Valley. I think tax dollars would be well spent to improve the mass transit situation in the Valley.

We need to give tax incentives to clean, renewable energy sources and rescind the tax breaks given to the huge oil companies who have been reaping record profits at the expense of all Americans. The answer is in conservation which includes improved mass